



# Important Budget Update



**Representative Marc Boldt**  
**17th District**

**Representative Marc Boldt**

432 John L. O'Brien Bldg.  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
360-786-7994

**District office:**

1311 SE Grace  
Battleground, WA 98604  
360-576-6037

**E-mail:**

[boldt\\_ma@leg.wa.gov](mailto:boldt_ma@leg.wa.gov)

**Toll-free hotline:**

1-800-562-6000

**Committees:**

Appropriations  
Children & Family Services,  
*ranking minority member*  
Judiciary

Dear Friends,

The Legislature just wrapped up the 2002 session. The challenges this year were tremendous – of course the biggest struggle we faced was patching a \$1.6 billion deficit hole caused by last session's irresponsible budget.

And while we ended the session in 60 days, we didn't necessarily complete our work. In fact, we did nothing to solve the budget deficit. This report highlights this important issue, and also includes a guide of local and state government phone numbers to call with your questions, concerns and ideas.

Our "government of the people" works best when you become involved. Often, just knowing whom to call can make a big difference.

As your state representative, I want to always be accessible to you. If you need help dealing with a state agency or have questions about state regulations or laws, please feel free to call my office.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you!

Sincerely,

Marc Boldt  
State Representative  
17th Legislative District



### ■ Budget only a short-term fix...

As many of us predicted, the state operating budget adopted by Democrats in the Legislature last June turned out to be fiscally unstable. It spent \$700 million more than revenue coming in when it was adopted and, as the state's economy continued its predicted slide, lawmakers were forced back to the drawing board to try to bring the budget back into balance – just six months into the two-year fiscal cycle.

Amazingly, Democrat budget writers failed to learn from this colossal mistake and drafted a supplemental budget that actually makes our budget situation worse by doubling the deficit spending to \$1.4 billion more than anticipated revenue.



The supplemental budget again uses gimmicks to cover the deficit, spending nearly all of the state's reserves and relying on a scheme to sell off future tobacco settlement payments in exchange for one-time cash. Families and businesses understand all too well that you can't spend more money than you have coming in, or you will be in deep financial trouble very soon. Yet the Democrats controlling the Legislature, faced with a \$1.6 billion hole, could not bring themselves to stop the growth in spending. It's credit-card spending at its worst.

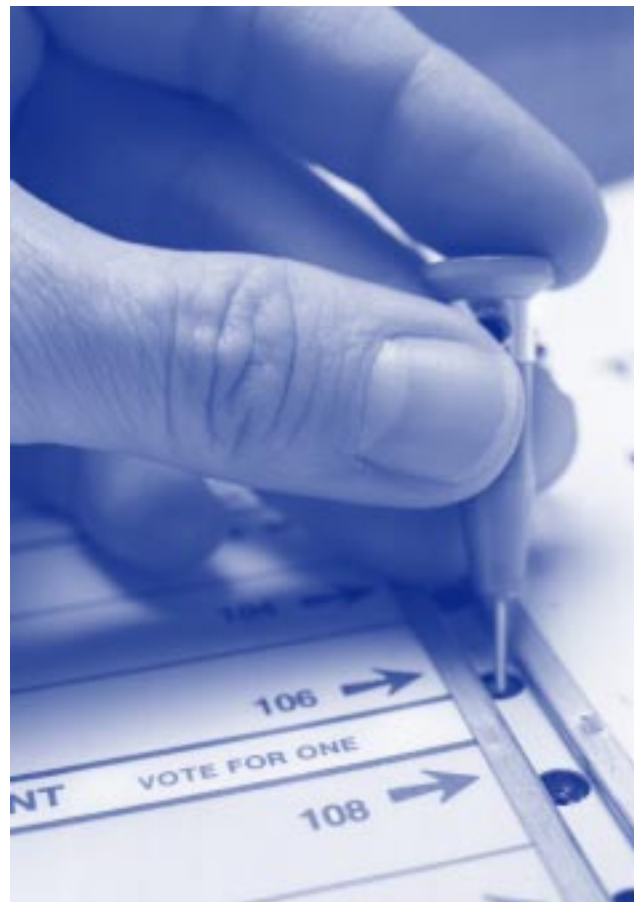
The results, once again, are predictable. By the Democrats' own admission, this budget will leave taxpayers with a \$1 billion shortfall at the start of the next biennium – if not causing the state to go completely in the red before the end of the year.

Perhaps worst of all, the budget protects state bureaucracy, while cutting spending for education, health care, public safety, and services for the truly needy. There is no serious effort to reduce the size of government.

### ■ Fatal blow to Initiative 601

Another disturbing action taken this session was the approval of a rule change that placed the final nail in the coffin of Initiative 601, the voter-mandated spending limit. It allows lawmakers to tap the state's dwindling emergency reserves and increase taxes with only a simple majority vote, rather than the two-thirds majority mandated by the passage of I-601 in 1993. Not only is this fiscally irresponsible, but more importantly it is a blatant disregard for the voters in this state.

I didn't support this bill because I believe we should have made the hard choices to make government more efficient. Instead, lawmakers took the easy way out. That's very disappointing. I heard the voters loud and clear, they passed I-601 because they wanted a leaner government and added protection against tax increases. Allowing lawmakers to increase taxes with only a simple majority vote flies in the face of voters wishes.



# 2002 Directory of Government Officials

## ■ Toll-free Information

## ■ Hotline Phone Numbers

Legislative Hotline .....	1-800-562-6000
Hearing Impaired Hotline .....	1-800-635-9993
State Agency Information .....	1-800-321-2808
Alcohol/Drug Helpline .....	1-800-562-1240
Aging and Adult Services .....	1-800-422-3263
Attorney General Consumer Division ...	1-800-551-4636
Basic Health Plan (low-income citizens) .....	1-800-826-2444
Crime Victims Advocacy .....	1-800-822-1067
Domestic Violence Hotline .....	1-800-562-6025
Department of Ecology Waste Reduction and Recycling .....	1-800-RECYCLE
Eye care for senior citizens .....	1-800-222-EYES
Food Stamps (eligibility) .....	1-800-882-5333
Insurance Commissioner Consumer Protection .....	1-800-562-6900
Nursing Home Fraud, Patient Abuse & Neglect .....	1-800-562-6078
Poison Information Center .....	1-800-732-6985
Department of Revenue .....	1-800-647-7706
Runaway Hotline .....	1-800-448-4663
Department of Social & Health Services Child Protective Services .....	1-800-562-5624
Support Enforcement .....	1-800-729-7580
Utilities & Transportation Commission .....	1-800-562-6150
Veterans Affairs .....	1-800-562-2308
Voter Information .....	1-800-448-4881
Washington State Ferries .....	1-800-843-3779
Washington State Patrol - Report Drunk Drivers .....	1-800-223-7865
Welfare Fraud .....	1-800-562-6906

## ■ Directory of Government Officials

### 17th Legislative District

#### Rep. Marc Boldt

Olympia ..... (360) 786-7994  
District Office:  
1311 SE Grace  
Battleground, WA 98604 ..... (360) 576-6037

#### Rep. Jim Dunn

Olympia ..... (360) 786-7976

#### Sen. Don Benton

Olympia ..... (360) 786-7632

Toll-free Legislative Hotline ..... 1-800-562-6000

Toll-free Legislative Hotline  
(for hearing impaired) TTY-TDD .... 1-800-635-9993

State Information Hotline ..... 1-800-321-2808

## ■ 17th District County Contact Information

### Clark County

General Information ..... (360) 397-2000

County Auditor ..... (360) 397-2078

County Commissioners ..... (360) 397-2232

### Skamania County

County Auditor ..... (509) 427-9420

County Commissioners ..... (509) 427-9447

### State Elected Officials

Gov. Gary Locke ..... (360) 902-4111

Lt. Gov. Brad Owen ..... (360) 786-7700

Sec. of State Sam Reed ..... (360) 902-4151

State Treasurer Michael Murphy ..... (360) 753-7139

State Auditor Brian Sonntag ..... (360) 902-0370

Attorney General Christine Gregoire ... (360) 664-8564

Supt. of Public Instruction  
Terry Bergeson ..... (360) 753-6738

Insurance Commissioner  
Mike Kreidler ..... (360) 753-7301

Commissioner of Public Lands  
Doug Sutherland ..... (360) 902-1000



## District Office Now Open!

Please stop by and say hello. We are  
located at:

1311 SE Grace  
Battleground, WA 98604  
360-576-6037

 Printed on recycled paper

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**Representative  
Marc Boldt**

**Important Budget Update**

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
OLYMPIA WA  
PERMIT NO 92